



Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0382

ITW

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Masahiro OMATA et al.

Title: LAPPING APPARATUS AND LAPPING METHOD

Appl. No.: 10/772,593

Filing Date: 02/06/2004

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 3723

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The foregoing documents came to Applicants' attention during a search of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

Applicants wish to advise the Examiner that document JP 7-237116, cited in the European Search Report, was previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated February 6, 2004 and is not provided herewith.

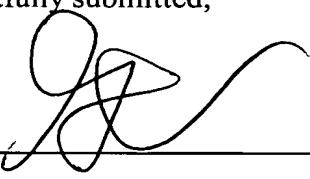
English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Date July 22, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		<b>Application Number</b>	10/772,593
Date Submitted: July 22, 2004		<b>Filing Date</b>	02/06/2004
(use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Masahiro OMATA
		<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3723
		<b>Examiner Name</b>	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	040302-0382

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO)

Standard ST.3).<sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.<sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.